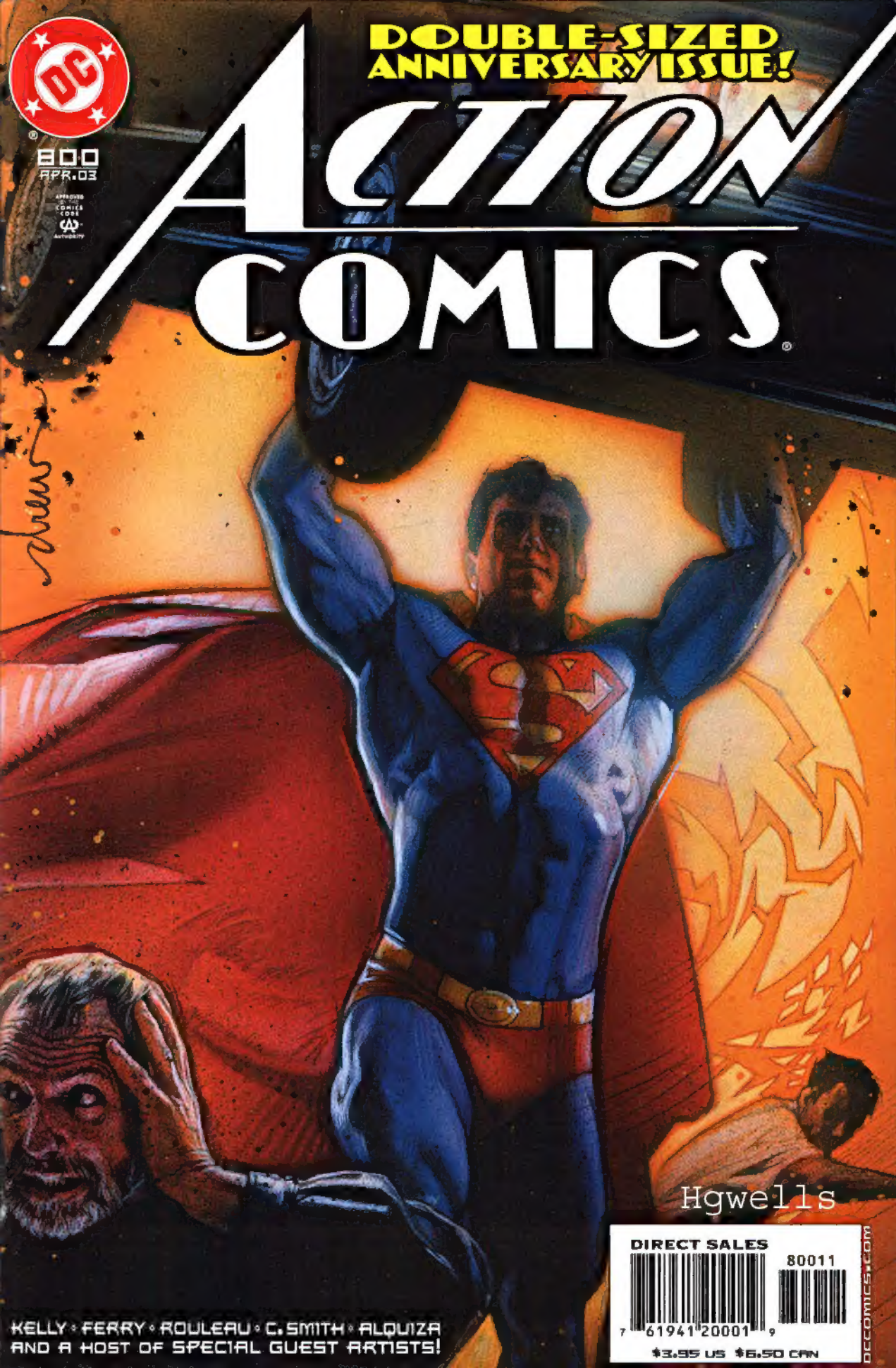




**DOUBLE-SIZED
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!**

800
APR. 03

APPROVED
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

ACTION COMICS

Shaw

Hgwells

KELLY • FERRY • ROULEAU • C. SMITH • ALQUIZA
AND A HOST OF SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS!

DIRECT SALES



80011



\$3.95 US \$6.50 CAN

DC.COMICS.COM

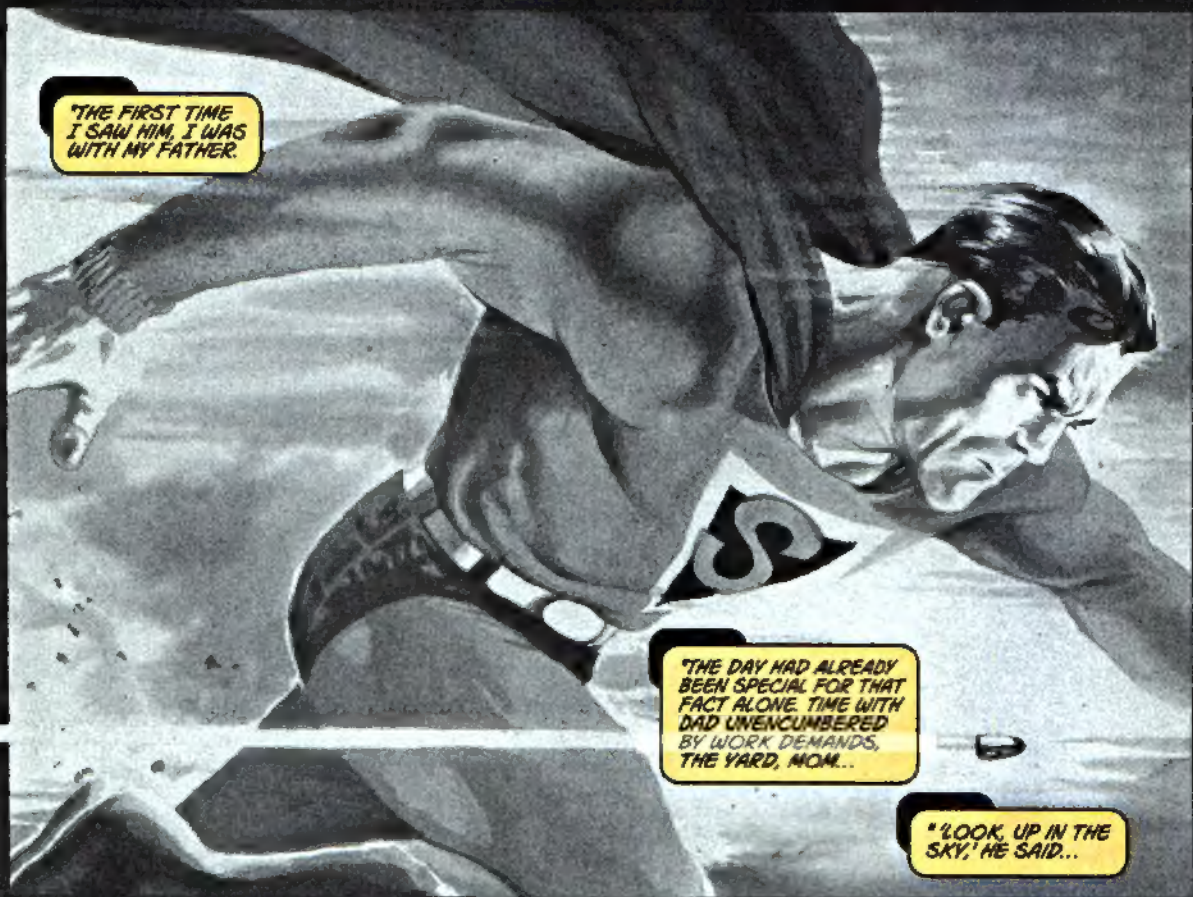
"He turns all of his injuries into strengths, that which does not kill him makes him stronger, he is superman."

-- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche,
Thus Spake Zarathustra

"The future belongs to those who believe
in the beauty of their dreams."

--Eleanor Roosevelt





"THE FIRST TIME
I SAW HIM, I WAS
WITH MY FATHER.

"THE DAY HAD ALREADY
BEEN SPECIAL FOR THAT
FACT ALONE. TIME WITH
DAD UNENCUMBERED
BY WORK DEMANDS,
THE YARD, MOM...

"'LOOK, UP IN THE
SKY,' HE SAID..."



"IT'S

SUPERMAN

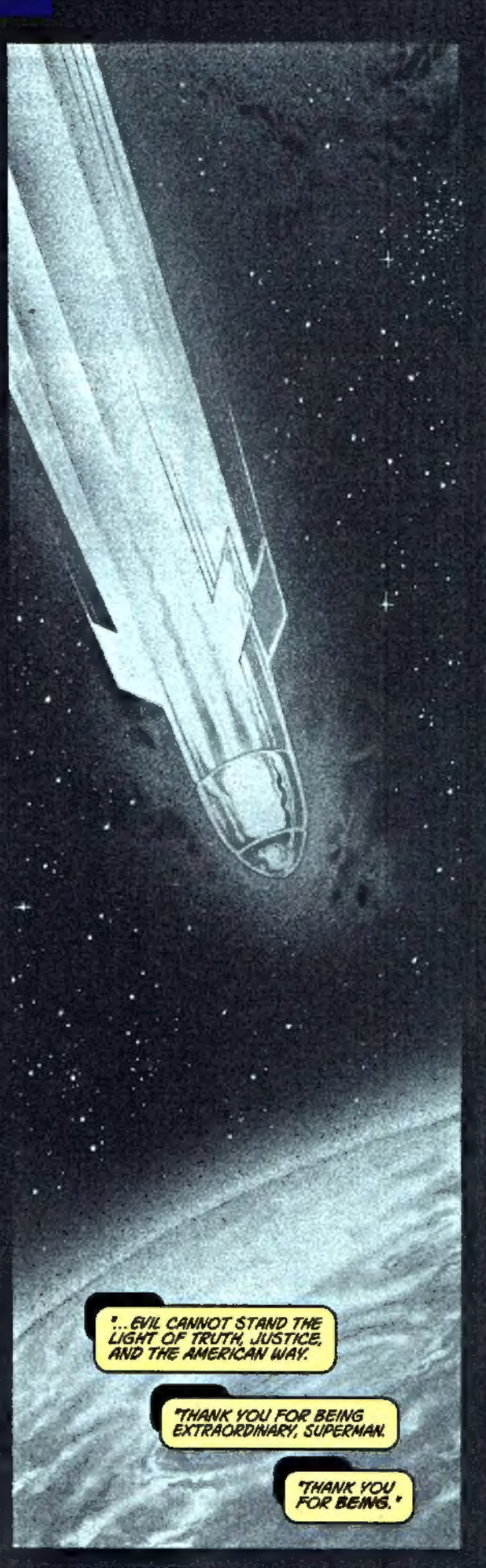


"ASK TEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHAT SUPERMAN LOOKS LIKE, YOU'LL GET TEN DIFFERENT DESCRIPTIONS, TEN DIFFERENT STORIES LIKE MINE. THEY'LL ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON, THOUGH...

"...HE'S TOUCHED THEM, SOMEHOW. HE'S TOUCHED US ALL.

"I'VE GROWN UP WITH THE BELIEF THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE MADE EXTRAORDINARY THROUGH THE COLLISION OF CIRCUMSTANCE AND CHARACTER.

"THAT AT THE HEART OF IT ALL, KINDNESS BEGETS KINDNESS, AND NO MATTER HOW DARK THE WORLD GETS... NO MATTER HOW DARK...



"...EVIL CANNOT STAND THE LIGHT OF TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN WAY.

"THANK YOU FOR BEING EXTRAORDINARY, SUPERMAN.

"THANK YOU FOR BEING."



a hero's



**SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER**

Written by
JOE KELLY

Pencilled by
**PASCUAL
FERRY &
DUNCAN
ROULEAU**

with Special Guests:

**ALEX ROSS
TONY HARRIS
BILL**

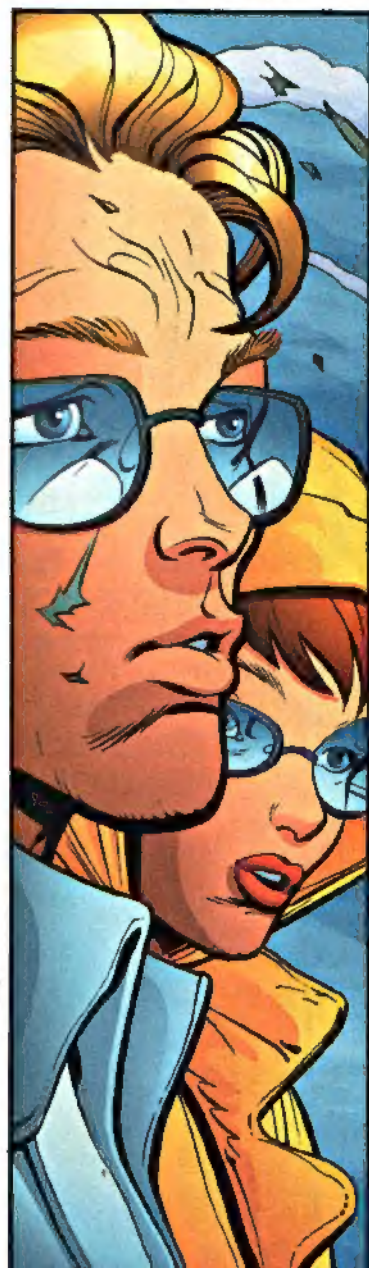
**SIENKIEWICZ
DAVE BULLOCK
ED MCGUINNESS
J.H. WILLIAMS
DAN JURGENS &
KLAUS JANSON
KILIAN PLUNKETT**

**JIM LEE
TIM SALE
LEE BERMEJO**

Inked by
**CAM SMITH
MARLO ALQUIZA
SCOTT HANNA
DUNCAN ROULEAU**

Colored by
**MOOSE BAUMANN
JEROMY COX
CUY MAJOR**

Lettered by
COMICRAFT

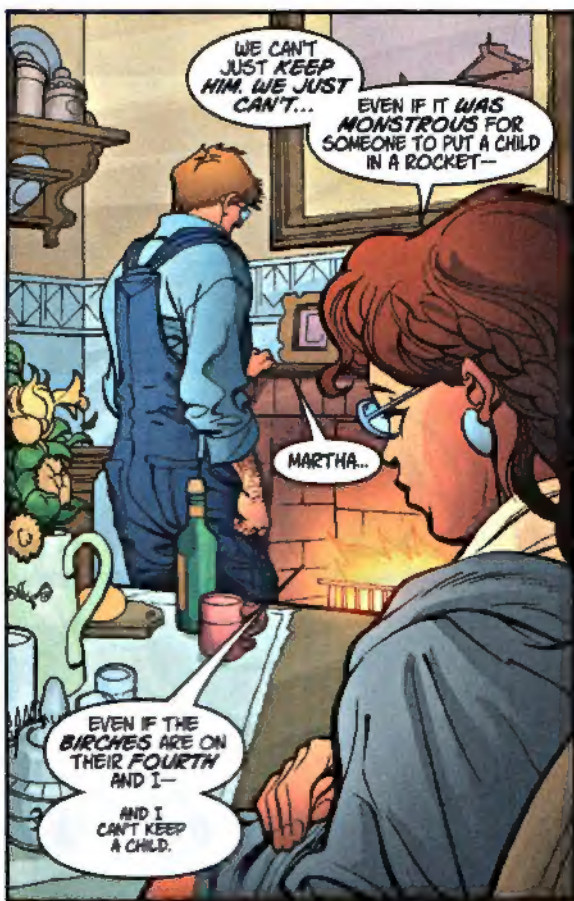


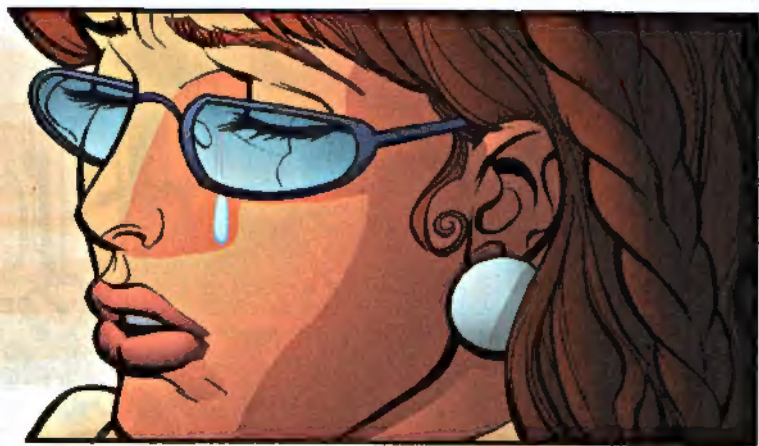


Journey



Edited by associate editor TOM PALMER Jr. and editor EDDIE BERGANZA

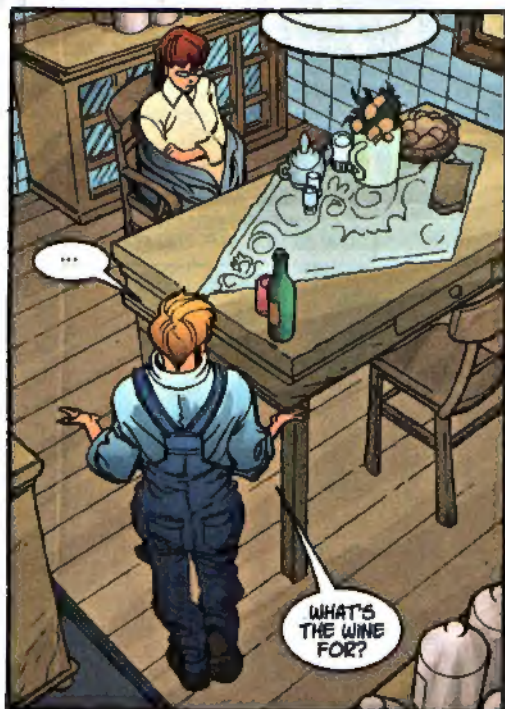




BUT IF
THERE'S *ANYONE*
WHO MIGHT STAND A
CHANCE TO DO RIGHT
BY THAT CHILD, COME
WHAT MAY...

... IT'S *YOU*
AND I, DON'T...
DON'T YOU JUST
KNOW IT?

DON'T WE
DESERVE A
CHANCE TO
TRY?



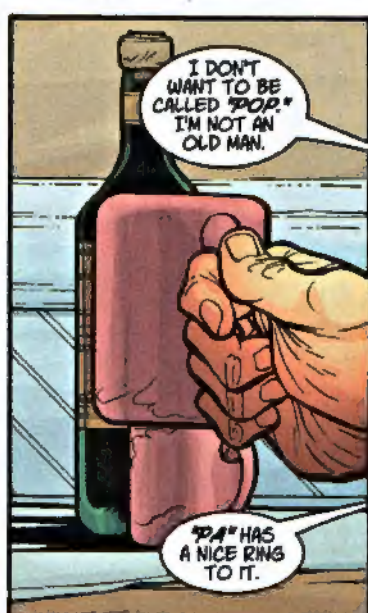
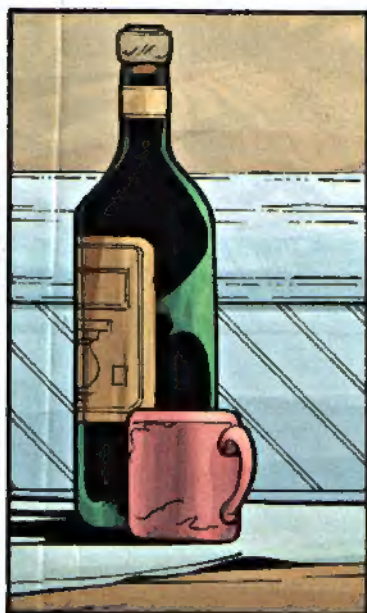
WHAT'S
THE WINE
FOR?



IF WE DECIDE TO KEEP
THAT CHILD... I'M GOING
TO GET ANOTHER GLASS,
AND WE ARE GOING TO
CELEBRATE.

IF WE
DON'T... WINE IS
MORE CONVENIENT
AND LESS PAINFUL
THAN A *LOG TO*
THE HEAD.

WHILE YOU
TAKE HIM INTO TOWN,
I'LL BE DOING EVERYTHING
IN MY POWER TO FORGET
TONIGHT EVER HAPPENED.



I DON'T
WANT TO BE
CALLED "POP."
I'M NOT AN
OLD MAN.

"PA" HAS
A NICE RING
TO IT.



"I WASN'T WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A 'STUDENT', REALLY. I'M STILL NOT, BUT I'M BETTER... AT LEAST I CAN READ."

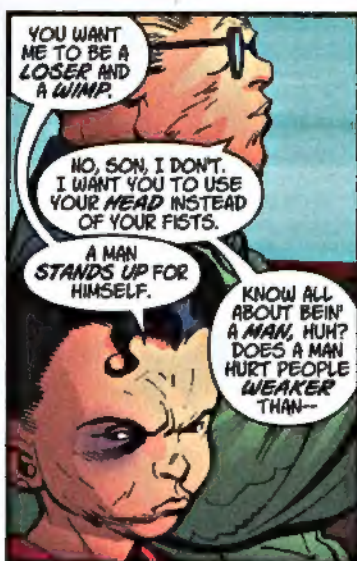
"THAT DIDN'T COME EASY FOR ME AT FIRST. I WAS SEVEN, AND IT TOOK ME THREE HOURS TO GET THROUGH 'SEE SPOT.' Y'KNOW? THEY HAVE ALL SORTS OF BIG NAMES FOR THAT SORT OF THING NOW, BUT THEN, I WAS JUST ANOTHER 'ILLITERATE BLACK GIRL' READY TO BE A BURDEN ON SOCIETY."

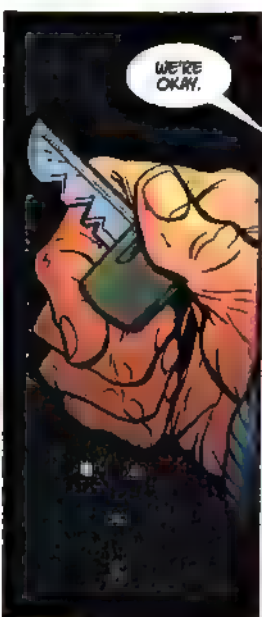
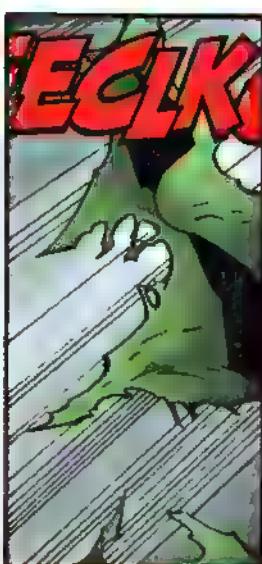
"AND THEN I SAW SUPERMAN. NOT HIM, HIM... A COMIC STRIP IN THE PAPER. THIS FLYING MAN DOING THESE AMAZING THINGS, STRONG."

"THERE WERE WORDS COMING OUT OF HIS MOUTH, AND I WANTED TO KNOW FOR MYSELF WHAT THEY SAID. I COULD UNDERSTAND MOST OF THE STORY, BUT THE LOOK OF HIM..."

"I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT HE WAS SAYING, LIKE IT WAS IMPORTANT SOMEHOW."

"THAT'S HOW I LEARNED TO READ. SUPERMAN COMICS."





"SO, THERE WOULD BE - I WOULD MAKE, LIKE, A MOVIE OF HIM. WHEN I'M OLDER. I'M FIVE AND A HALF. MAYBE I'D HAVE TO BE BIG, LIKE EIGHT.

ADMIT

"AND IT WOULD BE IN IMAX AND WITH THE GOOD SOUND LIKE THEY HAVE DOWN-TOWN, AND GOOD SEATS. BECAUSE HE HAS TO BE BIG.

"SUPERMAN IS BIG.



"AND THERE WOULD BE A BAD GUY, PROBABLY A SCIENTIST, OR MAYBE A PIRATE. A VAMPIRE! WITH A BEAM THAT KNOCKS DOWN BUILDINGS FROM HIS DARK CASTLE.



"AND HE CATCHES LOIS LANE BECAUSE SHE'S INVESTIGATING A STORY SHE'S A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY PLANET AND SHE ALWAYS GETS IN TROUBLE AND STUFF. MY SISTER SAYS SHE'S COOL.

"AND SUPERMAN SAYS TO THE EVIL SCIENTIST POLITICIAN, 'YOU CANNOT KNOCK DOWN METROPOLIS WITH YOUR RAY!' AND HE SAYS, 'OH YEAH, WHO CAN STOP ME? NO ONE CAN!'

"BUT SUPERMAN CAN.



"THAT'S WHAT HE DOES. HE SAVES US FROM THE BAD GUYS.

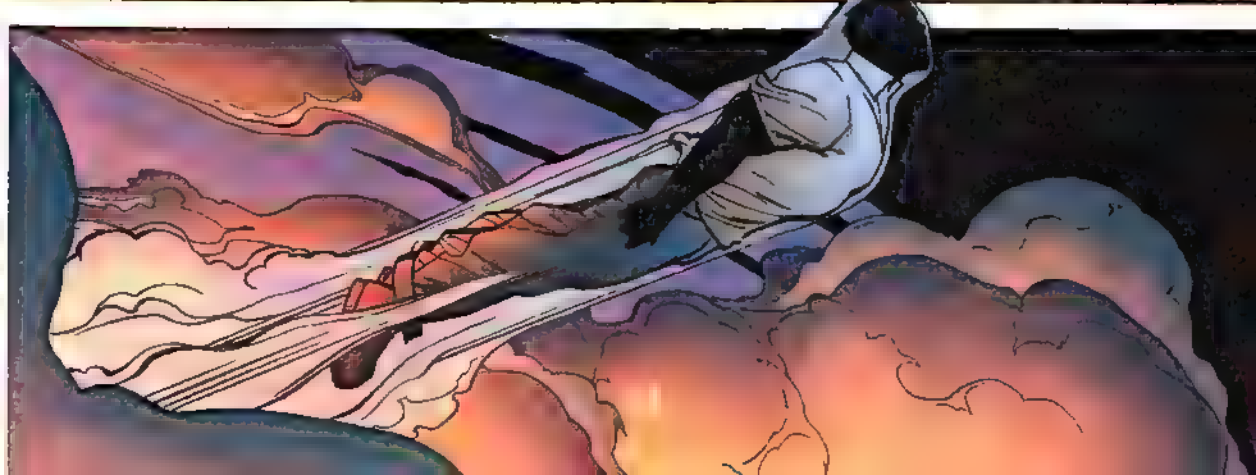
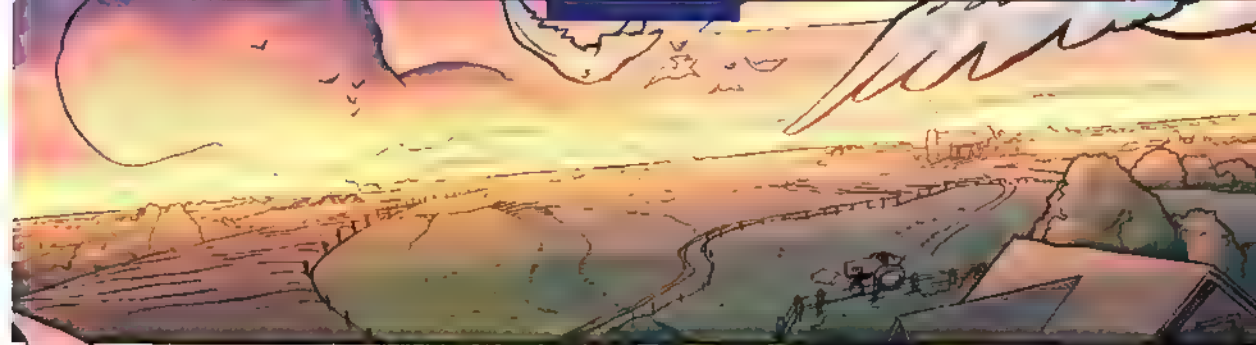


"HE STOPS THE RAYS AND MAKES SURE THAT THE BUILDINGS DON'T FALL, AND IF THEY DO... HE GETS THE PEOPLE OUT.

"AND EVERYONE WILL CHEER. SUPERMAN ALWAYS WINS.



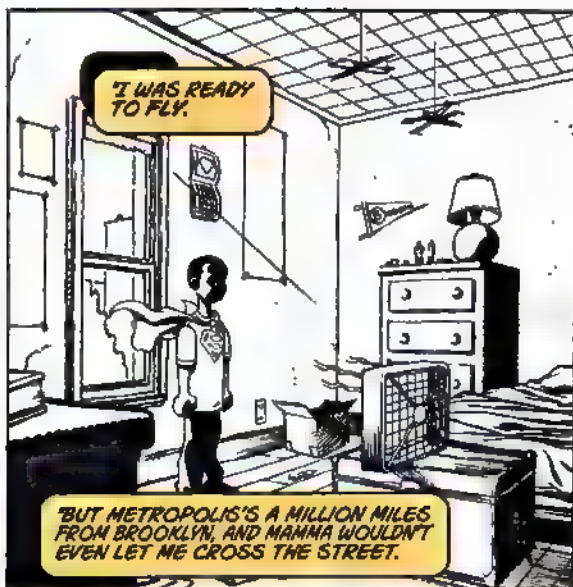
"THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN."







"I HAD THE CAPE. I HAD THE LOOK. I KNEW EXACTLY HOW MY ARMS WOULD GO..."



"I WAS READY TO FLY."

"BUT METROPOLIS'S A MILLION MILES FROM BROOKLYN, AND MAMMA WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME CROSS THE STREET."



"I'M TEN THOUGH, RIGHT? INVINCIBLE AND FLYING MAKES COMPLETE SENSE. I PROMISE I'M NEVER GIVING UP UNTIL I CAN FLY LIKE SUPERMAN."



"I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THE WRIGHT BROTHERS WERE GROUNDED, BUT I FIGURE IT HAD TO BE A LOT."

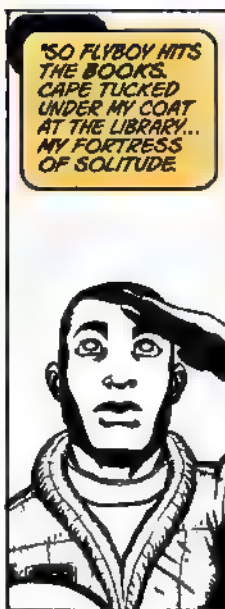


"TELL MAMMA WE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE THE TERM 'GROUNDED' IF THEY HADN'T LEARNED TO FLY."

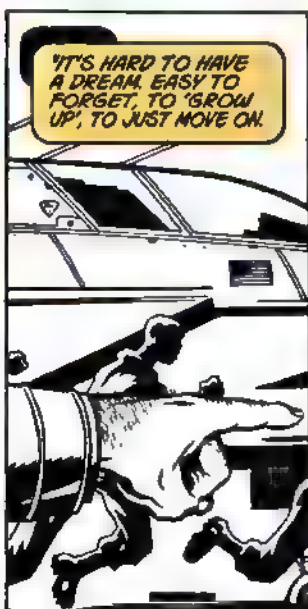
"SHE LAUGHS AND CALLS ME 'FLYBOY'. I LIKE IT."



"SUPERMAN'S SIDEKICK, 'FLYBOY'. I'M TEN, DON'T FORGET."



"SO FLYBOY HITS THE BOOKS. CAPE TUCKED UNDER MY COAT AT THE LIBRARY... MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE."



"IT'S HARD TO HAVE A DREAM. EASY TO FORGET, TO 'GROW UP', TO JUST MOVE ON."



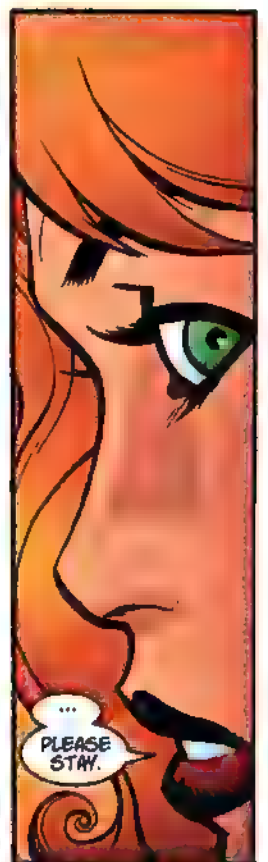
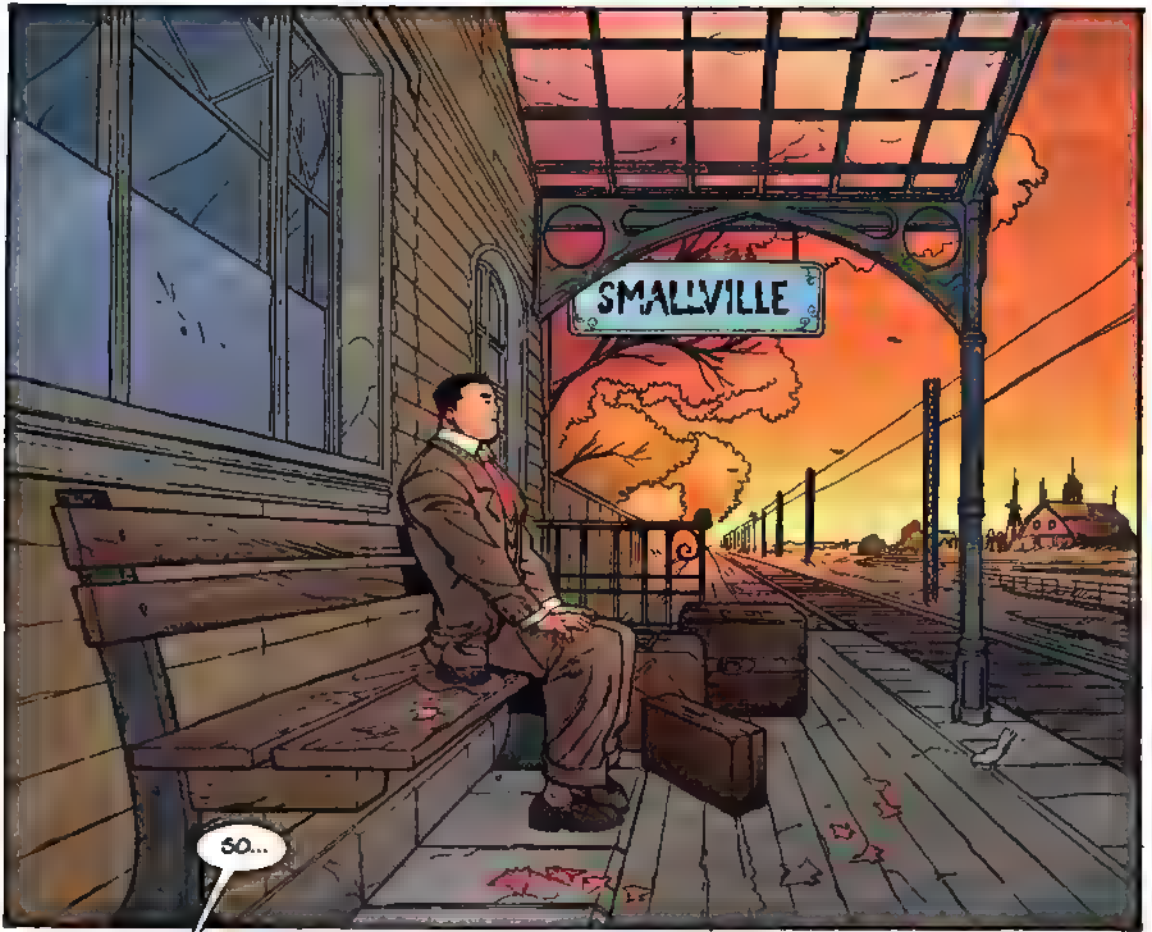
"BUT ANYTIME I CHECKED, SUPERMAN WAS STILL TEARING THROUGH THE CLOUDS AT MACH TEN..."

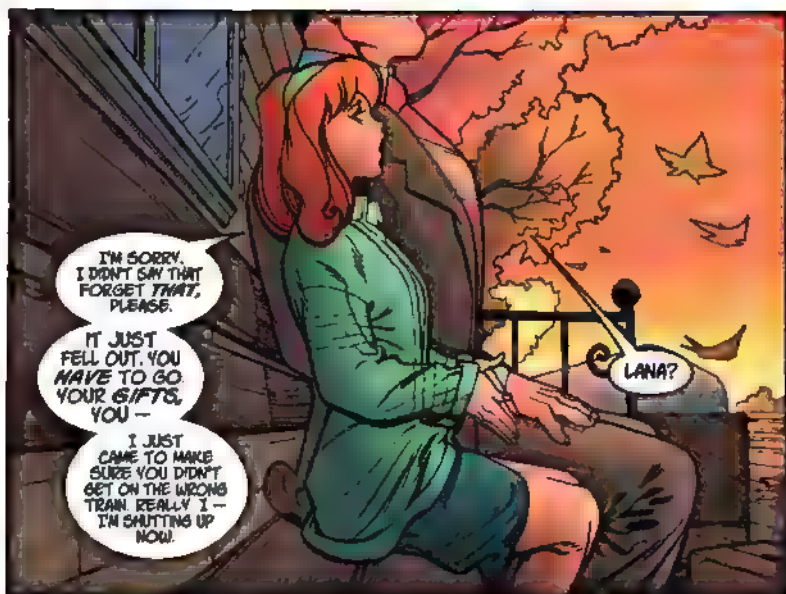
"SO WHY SHOULDN'T 'FLYBOY'?"



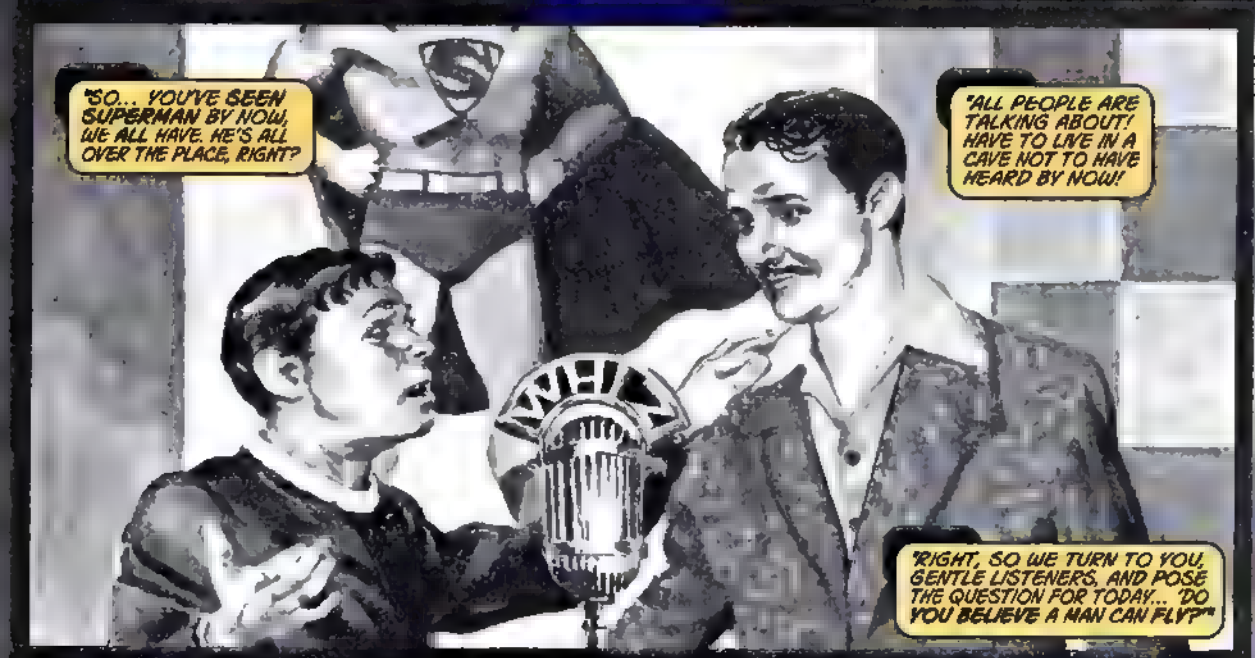
"I STILL HAVE THE CAPE. IT'S
HANGING IN MY CLOSET NEXT
TO MY DRESS BLUES..."

"BUT ONLY MAMMA STILL
GETS TO CALL ME 'FLYBOY'."





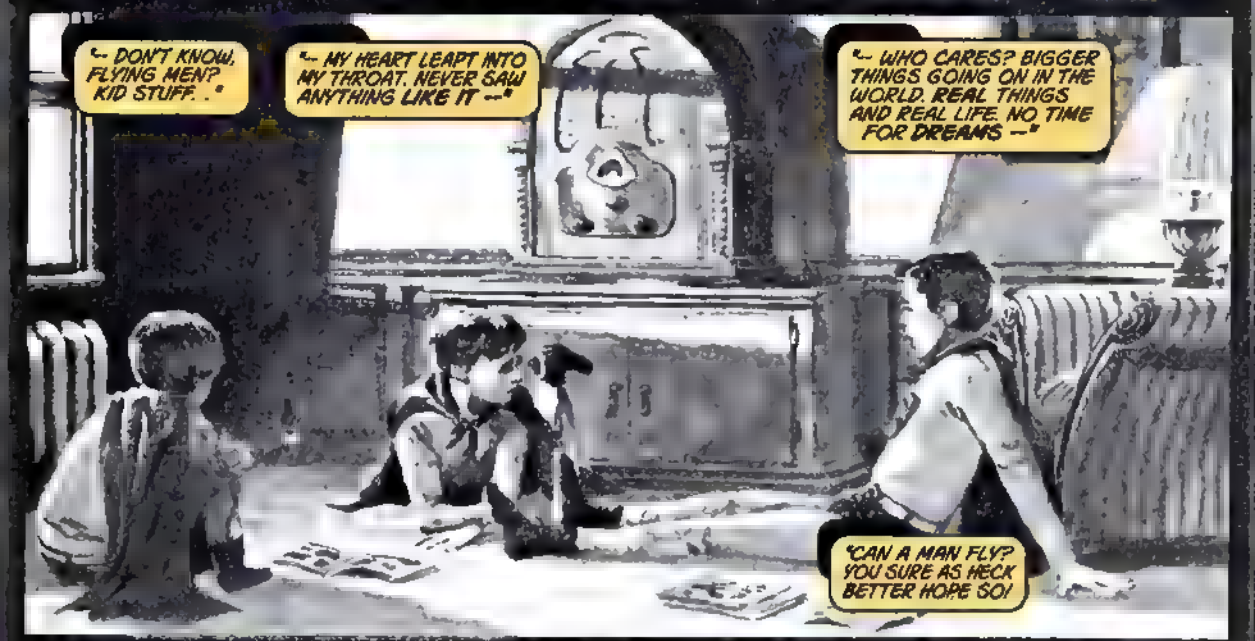


A black and white illustration of a man with a mustache and a young boy in a radio studio. The man is standing and speaking into a vintage microphone, while the boy sits next to him, also looking at the microphone. In the background, a large, stylized graphic of Superman's head is visible.

"SO... YOU'VE SEEN
SUPERMAN BY NOW,
WE ALL HAVE. HE'S ALL
OVER THE PLACE, RIGHT?"

"ALL PEOPLE ARE
TALKING ABOUT!
HAVE TO LIVE IN A
CAVE NOT TO HAVE
HEARD BY NOW!"

"RIGHT, SO WE TURN TO YOU,
GENTLE LISTENERS, AND POSE
THE QUESTION FOR TODAY... 'DO
YOU BELIEVE A MAN CAN FLY?'"

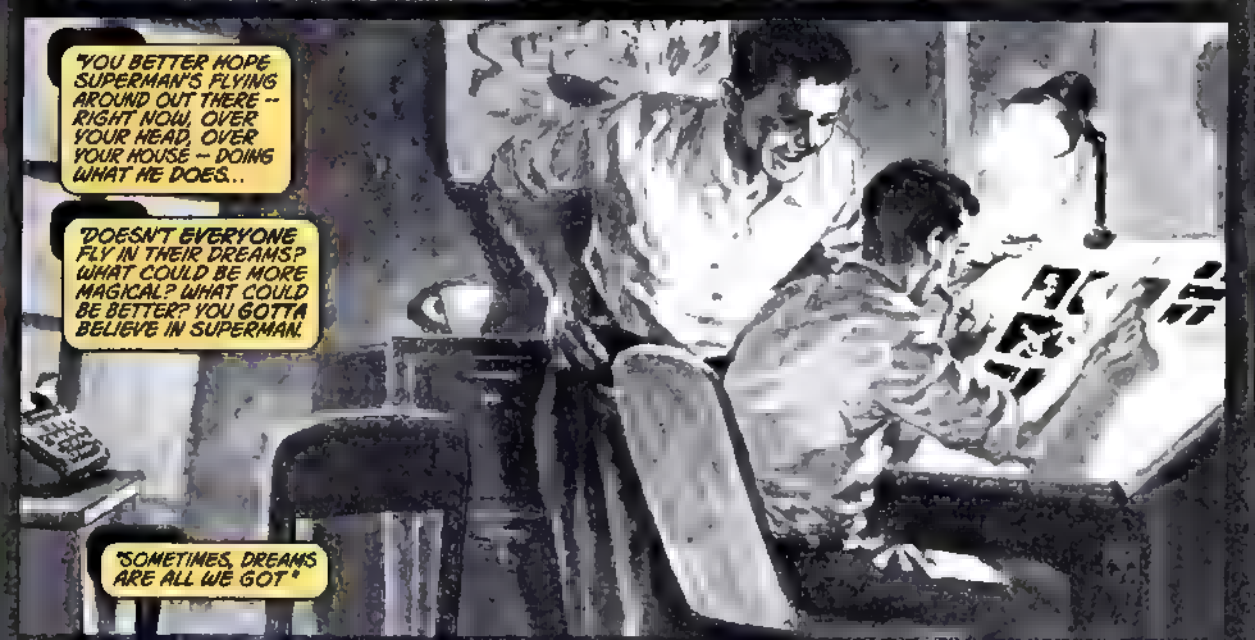
A black and white illustration of three boys in a living room. They are sitting on the floor, looking at a television set that is part of a large wooden cabinet. The room has a radiator on the left and a lamp on the right.

"-- DON'T KNOW,
FLYING MEN?
KID STUFF."

"-- MY HEART LEAPT INTO
MY THROAT. NEVER SAW
ANYTHING LIKE IT --"

"-- WHO CARES? BIGGER
THINGS GOING ON IN THE
WORLD. REAL THINGS
AND REAL LIFE. NO TIME
FOR DREAMS --"

"CAN A MAN FLY?
YOU SURE AS HECK
BETTER HOPE SO!"

A black and white illustration of a man and a boy at a desk. The man is leaning over the desk, looking at a newspaper or magazine that the boy is holding. The desk has a lamp and some papers on it.

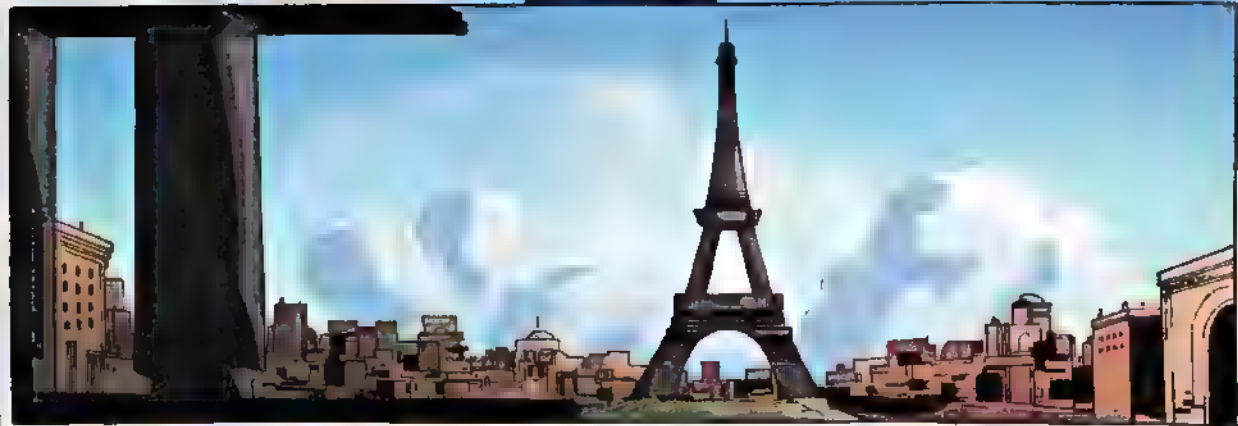
"YOU BETTER HOPE
SUPERMAN'S FLYING
AROUND OUT THERE --
RIGHT NOW, OVER
YOUR HEAD, OVER
YOUR HOUSE -- DOING
WHAT HE DOES..."

"DOESN'T EVERYONE
FLY IN THEIR DREAMS?
WHAT COULD BE MORE
MAGICAL? WHAT COULD
BE BETTER? YOU GOTTA
BELIEVE IN SUPERMAN."

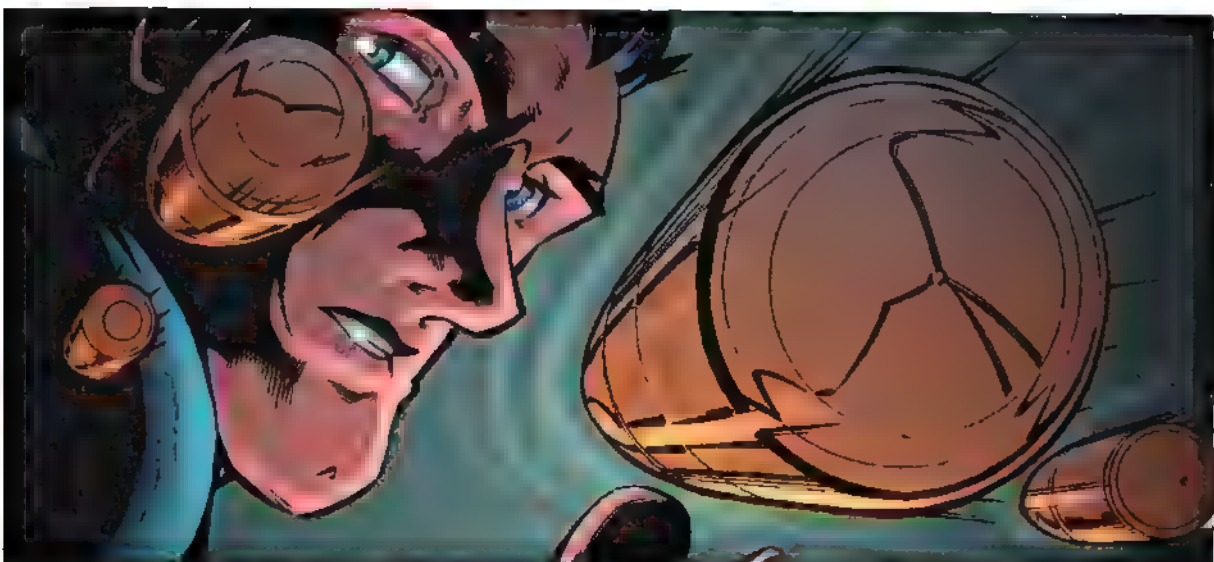
"SOMETIMES, DREAMS
ARE ALL WE GOT"













I'M
BULLETPROOF ~

BLAMM

NO!

(P.S. SEE
HOW QUICK YOU
ARE TO PUNCH WITH
BLOOD ON YOUR
HANDS.)

NO..

(YOU'RE ALL
THE SAME, STARTING
THINGS YOU CAN'T
FINISH.)

(IT'S
THE AMERICAN
WAY)



"WE WERE BETWEEN WARS, DOIN' A LOTTA NUTHIN' GUYS IN YER UNIT GET A MITE UGLY WHEN YOU GOTTA STARE AT 'EM FOR TOO LONG. A LITTLE LEAVE SOUNDED GOOD. SEE THE WORLD."

"I ALWAYS DO WHAT I CAN T'ERASE THE UGLY AMERICAN STUFF, 'SPECIALLY IN UNIFORM. BUT IT'S USUALLY TOO LATE. FOLKS GOT IN THEIR MINDS WHAT THEY GOT IN THEIR MINDS."

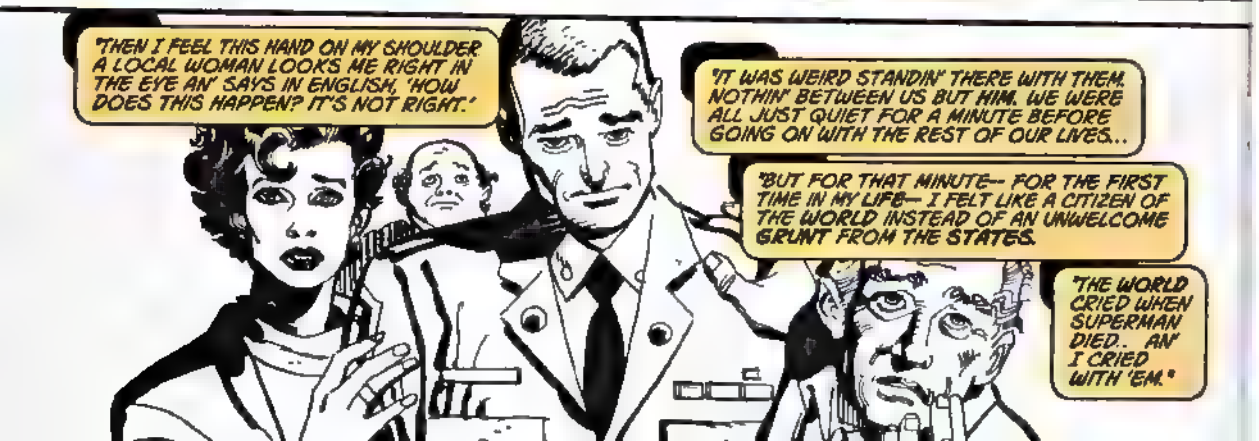
"Y'MAKE DO, BUT IT'S NO PICNIC. ALL ALONE, WALKIN', FAKE SMILIN' AT HARD FACES... THIN'KIN' 'THE WORLD' AIN'T WORTH SEEN' AN' DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE A CLUE WHAT I FIGHT FOR -- OR THAT THERE'S A GUY BENEATH THIS UNIFORM--?"



"AN' NEXT THING I KNOW, SUPERMAN IS DEAD. JUST LIKE THAT."

"SUPERMAN WASN'T SOMEONE I'D THOUGHT ABOUT ON A DAILY BASIS, BUT HEARIN' THE STORY... SEEN' IT... I DIDN'T HAVE ANY WIND LEFT IN ME."

"I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT OF SUPERMAN AS AMERICAN. AS AMERICA. SUPERMAN DYIN' WAS LIKE HAVING A PIECE OF AMERICA DIE. NEVER FELT MORE ALONE THAN AT THAT MOMENT."

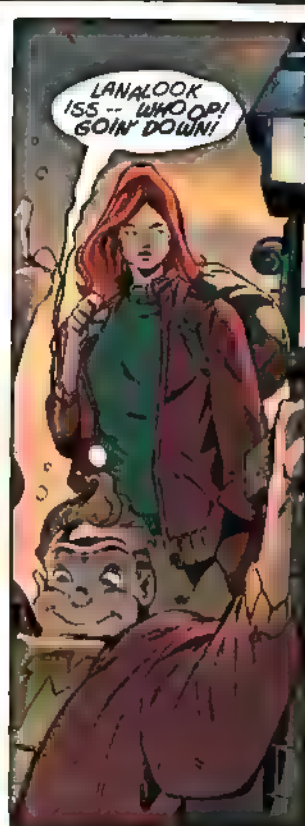


"THEN I FEEL THIS HAND ON MY SHOULDER. A LOCAL WOMAN LOOKS ME RIGHT IN THE EYE AN' SAYS IN ENGLISH, 'HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN? IT'S NOT RIGHT.'"

"IT WAS WEIRD STANDIN' THERE WITH THEM. NOTHIN' BETWEEN US BUT HIM. WE WERE ALL JUST QUIET FOR A MINUTE BEFORE GOING ON WITH THE REST OF OUR LIVES..."

"BUT FOR THAT MINUTE-- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE-- I FELT LIKE A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD INSTEAD OF AN UNWELCOME GRUNT FROM THE STATES."

"THE WORLD CRIED WHEN SUPERMAN DIED... AN' I CRIED WITH 'EM."





SEEMED LIKE
A GOOD IDEA AT THE
TIME. CHANCE TO TRAVEL.
SEE THINGS. BUT TOMMY'S
NOT... WELL, HE'S
NOT WORLDLY.

YOU HAD A
CHANCE TO TRAVEL
BEFORE.



I KNOW. I
THINK ABOUT IT
EVERY DAY

BUT LET'S
LEAVE IT AT THAT.
I WANT TO ENJOY
THIS --

YOU MADE
THE RIGHT
CALL.



THIS...
THIS THING ISN'T
WORKING LIKE I
PLANNED

I THINK
I'M GOING
HOME



OH.

WELL,
MAYBE... I'D
GO BACK WITH
YOU?



LANA -- STRADA NOVA
YOUTH HOSTEL --
MONDAY 10 A.M. NEXT
FLIGHT TO...

SMALLVILLE?

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING SO FAR FROM
KANSAS, ASIDE FROM
GETTING WET?

WHAT
BRINGS YOU
SO FAR FROM
KANSAS?

THAT'S A
SMALLVILLE CROW'S
JACKET, RIGHT? USED TO
PLAY BALL FOR THE DAWSON
PIRATES SHORTSTOP YOU
KIDS TOOK LAST SEASON
FROM US, I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY.

YEAH. 5-4.
IT WAS CLOSE
THOUGH.

ONLY COUNTS
IN HORSESHOES,
HAND GRENADES AND
LOVE... AN' EITHER
WAY, THEY ALL
HURT

I WAS JUST
TRYING TO FIGURE
THAT OUT, SIR.
CLARK KENT.

ED WILSON.
PLEASURE, MISTER
KENT

I'M A
REPORTER.
NEWSPAPER.
TAKES ME
ALL OVER

REALLY?
I DID SOME
WRITING IN HIGH
SCHOOL.

BUY YOU AN
ESPRESSO, IF YOU
WANNA COMPARE NOTES.
FIGURE IT BEATS MOPING
IN THE RAIN OVER
WHOEVER
SHE IS.

HUH...
YOU MUST BE
GOOD

GOOD ENOUGH
THEY KEEP SENDING ME
ON ASSIGNMENTS.
HEADING FOR AFRICA
TOMORROW.

REALLY...
WOW.

HOW
FAR AWAY IS
THAT?



I think you'd like Mister Wilson, Pa. He's honest, driven, and he writes from the heart about little people with big problems.

I've learned more from him in the last few months about journalism than I ever did in school...

More important, I'm learning a lot about myself. Like Ed says, "you can't report on a story until you become the story..."



MISTER WILSON, I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME -- BUT HOW ILLEGAL IS ALL THIS?

NOW YOU ASK JAWGAE QUESTIONS?

CLARK... CUBAN NATIONALS, FLEEING A TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT, RISK THEIR LIVES TO CROSS MEXICO AND FINALLY OVER THIS BORDER.

LIE DOWN ON THE GROUND! DO NOT RUN!



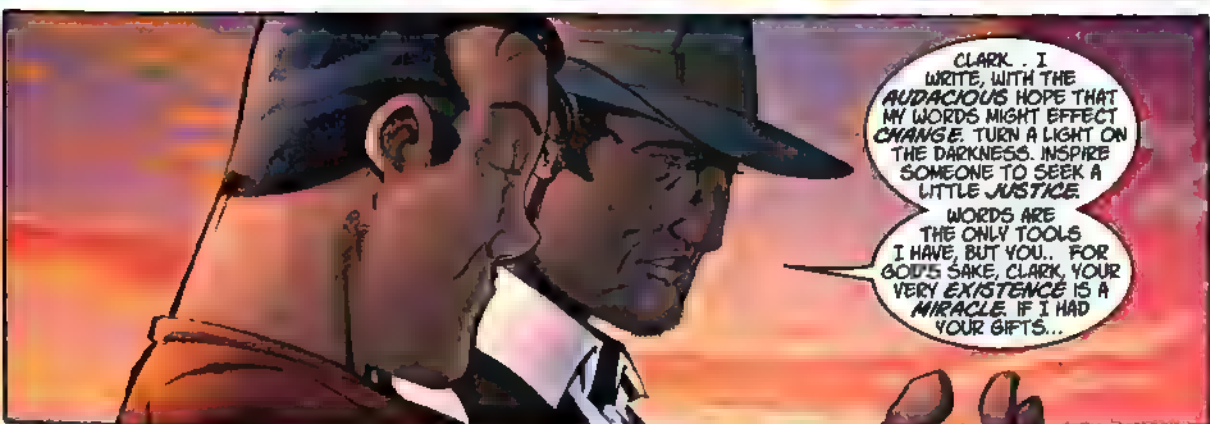
ONLY TO DISAPPEAR FOREVER. SOMEONE HAS TO SPEAK FOR THEM.

THERE'S THE LAW, THE WRITTEN WORD. . . AND THERE'S JUSTICE. SOMETIMES, YOU GOTTA CHOOSE--



UURRRM







"SPORTS ARE DUMB," HE SAID, "AND SO ARE THE MONGOLOIDS WHO WATCH IT! I DON'T WANT TO WATCH FOOTBALL WHEN CHILLER THEATRE IS ON!"



"WEH... THE THINGS YOU SAY TO YOUR PARENTS... YOU FORGET UNTIL THEY'RE SAID TO YOU..."

"JACK IS INTO THAT STUFF. MOVIES AND HORROR AND GORE. I LIKE FOOTBALL. I GET FOOTBALL THE SAINTS."



"JACK AND I... DON'T TALK VERY MUCH, I GUESS. I SHRUG IT OFF AS NORMAL, BUT... WE DON'T CLICK. THIRTEEN AND I'M STILL WAITING FOR THE CLICK."

"SO I PLAY TOUGH GUY AND I GIVE HIM A CHOICE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOVE IT, JACK! JUST TRY IT - OR LEAVE."



"YOU LEAVE," HE SAYS, AND HE CALLS ME A FASCIST. LIKE HE HAS A CLUE... MAYBE HE DOES, I DON'T KNOW."



"ANYWAY, IT GETS TO THAT POINT WE'RE BOTH GROPPING FOR THE TUBE, ALMOST SHOVING, ALMOST FORGETTING THIS IS OVER A GAME AND A CRAWLING HAND -"



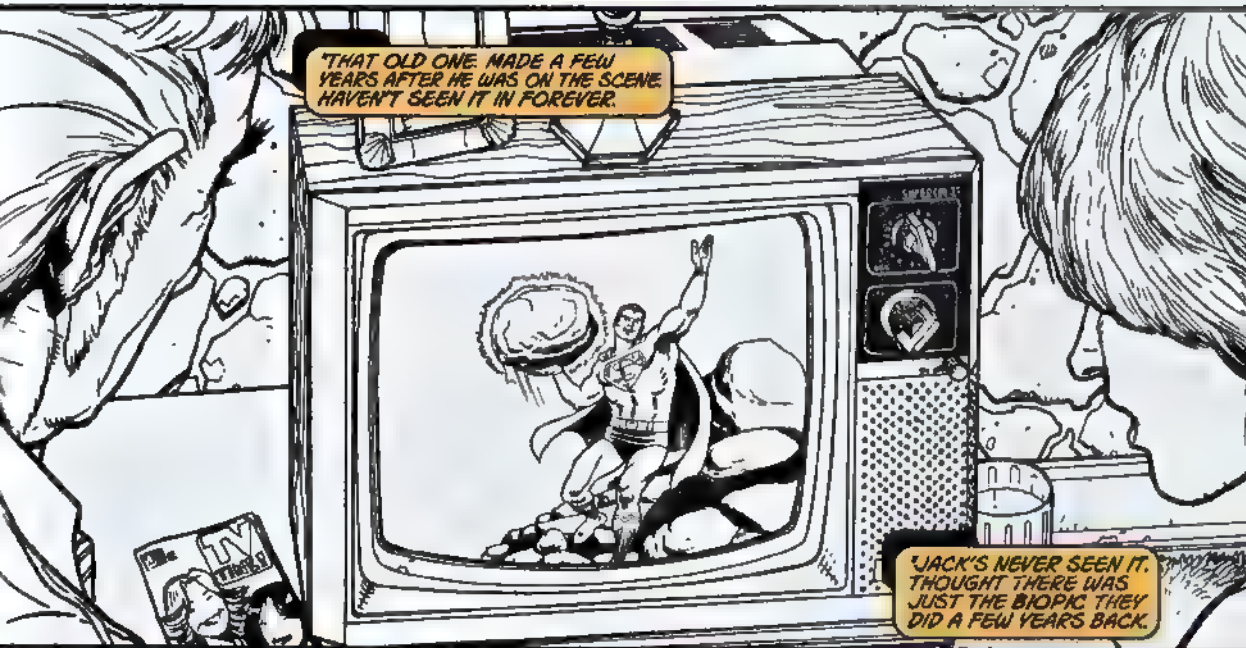
SUPERMAN
ACTION

"FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET. MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE. THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE PHRASES DEVISED TO DESCRIBE -"



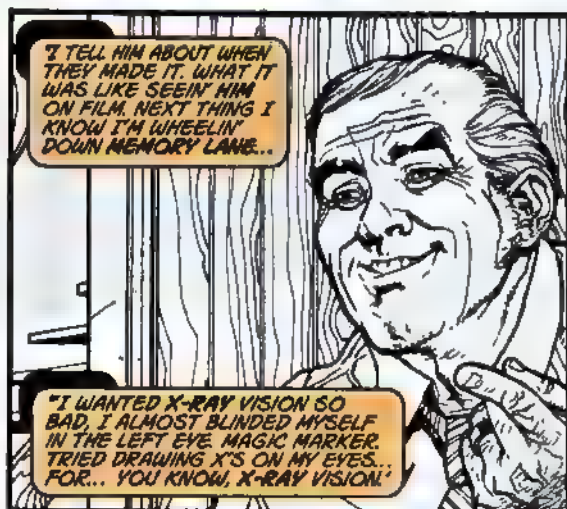
"SUPERMAN. THE MAN OF STEEL. IT'S A DOCUMENTARY."





"THAT OLD ONE. MADE A FEW YEARS AFTER HE WAS ON THE SCENE. HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN FOREVER."

"JACK'S NEVER SEEN IT. THOUGHT THERE WAS JUST THE BIOPIK THEY DID A FEW YEARS BACK."



"I TELL HIM ABOUT WHEN THEY MADE IT. WHAT IT WAS LIKE SEEIN' HIM ON FILM. NEXT THING I KNOW I'M WHEELIN' DOWN MEMORY LANE..."

"I WANTED X-RAY VISION SO BAD, I ALMOST BLINDED MYSELF IN THE LEFT EYE. MAGIC MARKER. TRIED DRAWING X'S ON MY EYES... FOR... YOU KNOW, X-RAY VISION."



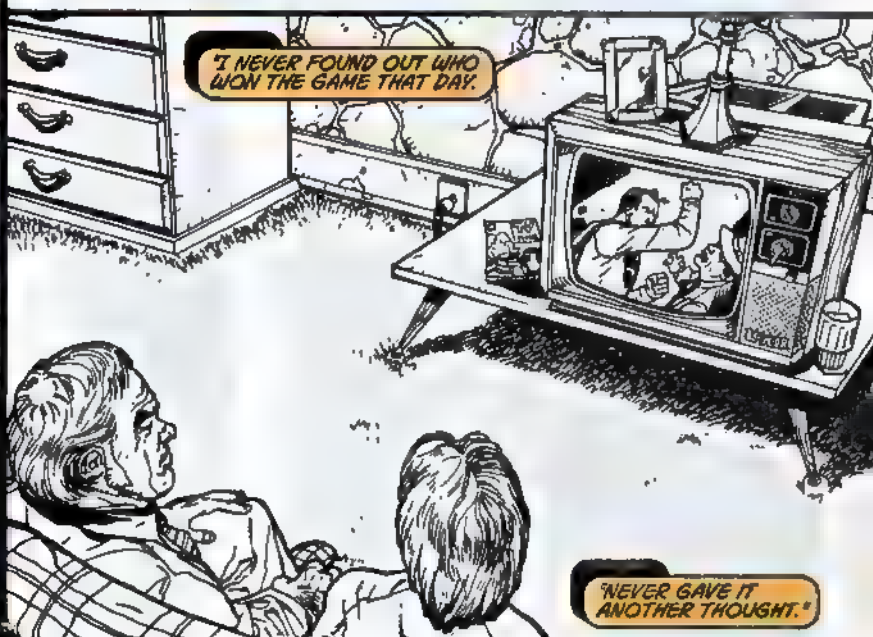
"YOU'RE KIDDING, DAD. THAT'S STUPID."

"I WAS EIGHT, JACK. LEAST I NEVER JUMPED OFF A ROOF LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S BROTHER."



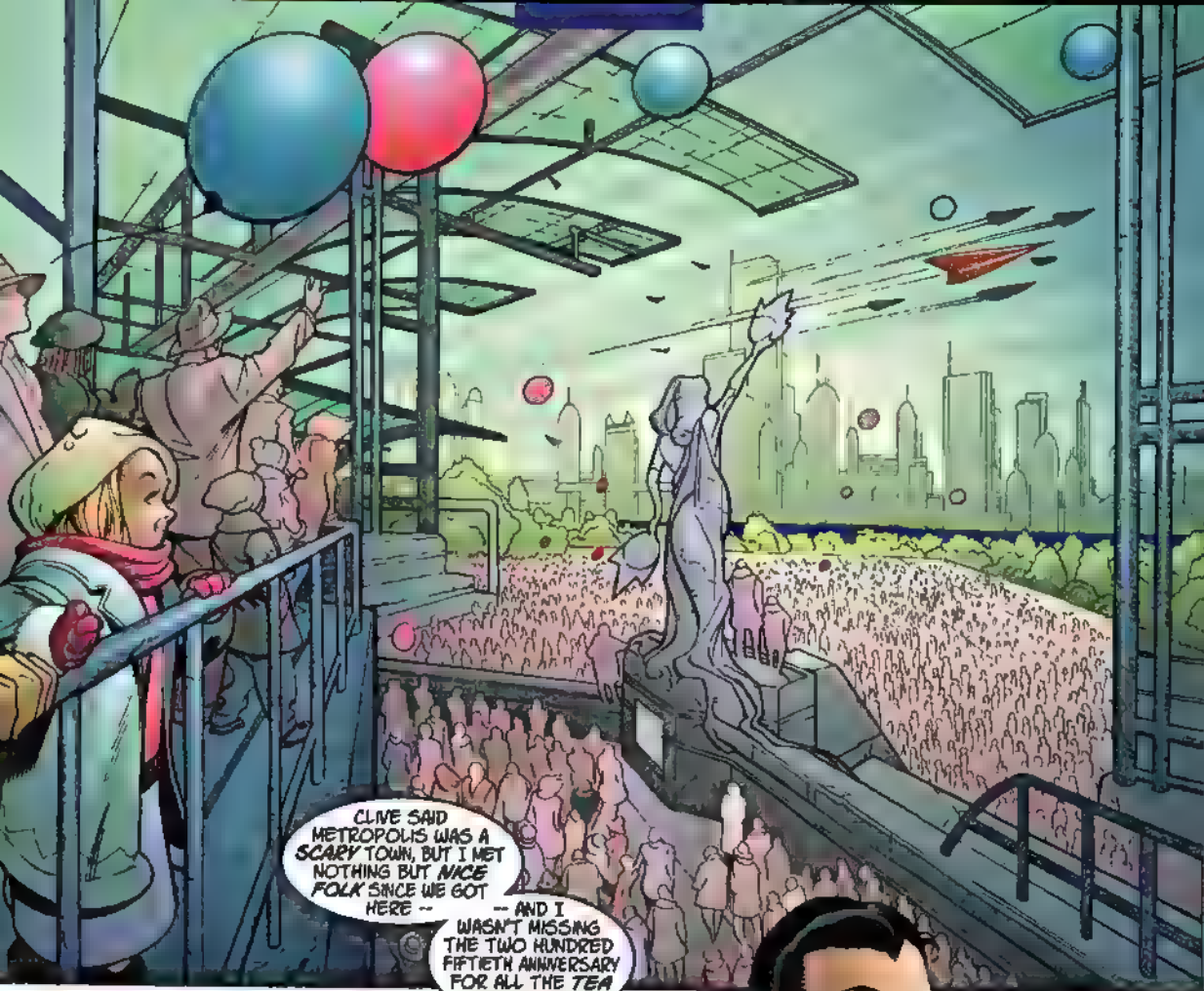
"HE ASKS ME IF IT'S TRUE THAT WHEN PEOPLE SAW SUPERMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME, PSYCHOLOGISTS SAID EVERYONE WAS GONNA JUMP OFF THE ROOF AND TRY TO FLY."

"ASKS ABOUT THE CAPE. THE MEAT VISION. THE BAD GUYS. WE TALK ALL THE WAY THROUGH."



"I NEVER FOUND OUT WHO WON THE GAME THAT DAY."

"NEVER GAVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT."



CLIVE SAID
METROPOLIS WAS A
SCARY TOWN, BUT I MET
NOTHING BUT NICE
FOLK SINCE WE GOT
HERE --

-- AND I
WASN'T MISSING
THE TWO HUNDRED
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
FOR ALL THE TEA
IN ENGLAND!

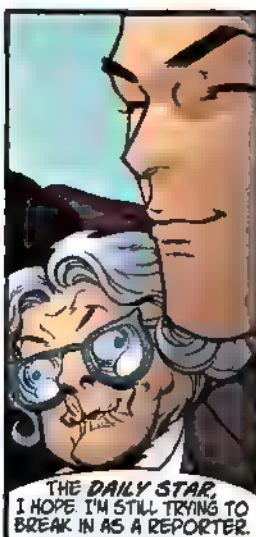


WELL, THE
DAY'S YOUNG, KEEP
YOUR PURSE CLOSE,
PICKPOCKETS,
RIGHT, BOY?

IT DOES
HAPPEN, BUT YOU
CAN'T HOLD IT AGAINST
AN ENTIRE CITY.



NOW WHERE WILL THIS
STORY BE? I'LL WANT
TO GET COPIES.



THE DAILY STAR.
I HOPE I'M STILL TRYING TO
BREAK IN AS A REPORTER.

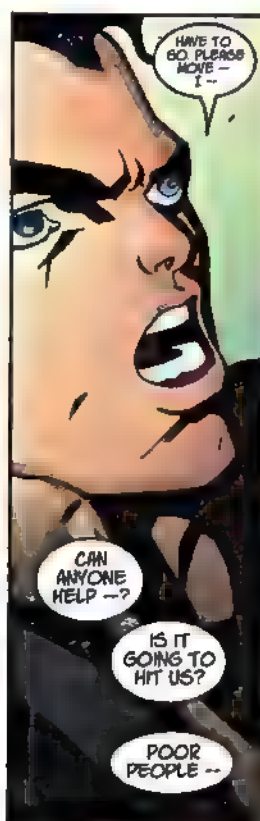


IT'S CALLED A
'PERSONAL INTEREST'
STORY.

HEH. DUNNO
WHO'D BE INTERESTED
IN US OL' FAR --



OH MY
GOD!





"I BELIEVE."

**"I BELIEVE
I CAN."**

**"I BELIEVE
I CAN WALK."**

**PARALYSIS
RESOURCE
CENTER**

**"I BELIEVE I CAN WALK AGAIN.
OUT OF THIS DAMN CHAIR
AND AWAY FROM MY ACCIDENT
AND INTO THE REST OF MY LIFE."**

NOTHING IS

SUPERMAN

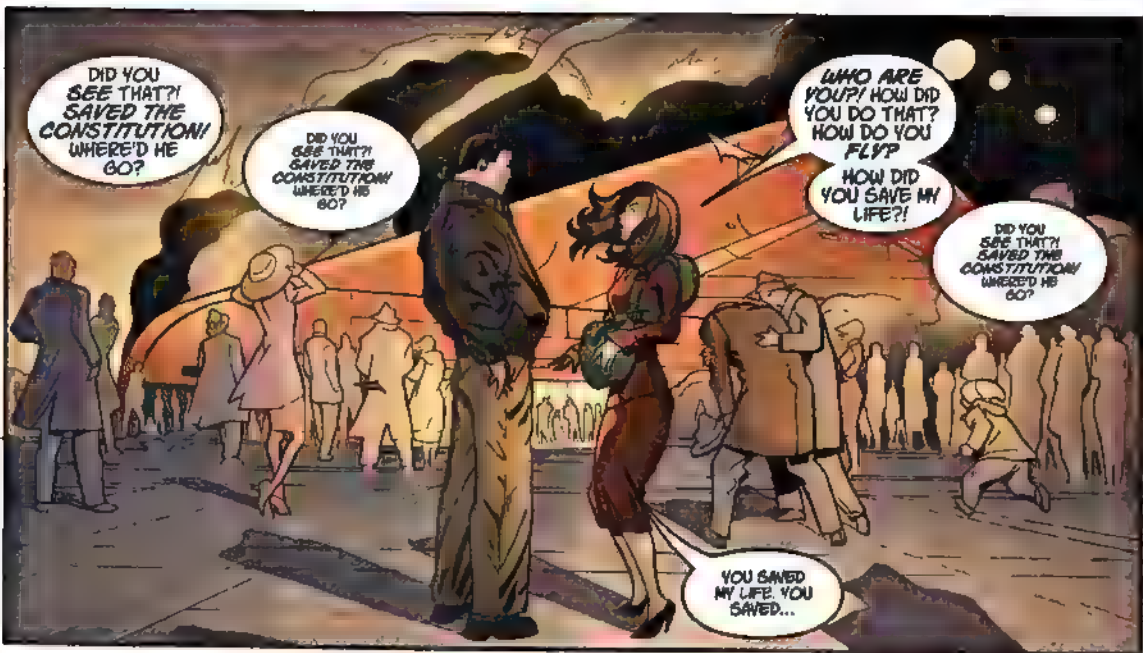


POSSIBLE

**"IF HE'S NOT GIVING
UP... NEITHER AM I."**



**HOLD
IT RIGHT
THERE!**



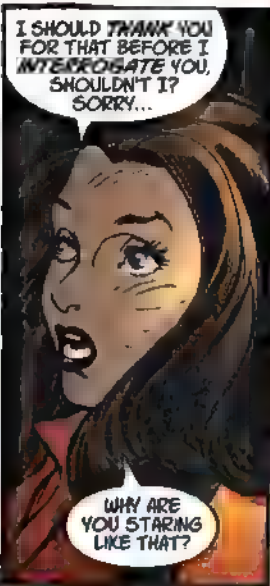
**DID YOU
SEE THAT?
SAVED THE
CONSTITUTION!
WHERE'D HE
GO?**

**DID YOU
SEE THAT?
SAVED THE
CONSTITUTION!
WHERE'D HE
GO?**

**WHO ARE
YOU? HOW DID
YOU DO THAT?
HOW DO YOU
FLY?
HOW DID
YOU SAVE MY
LIFE?!**

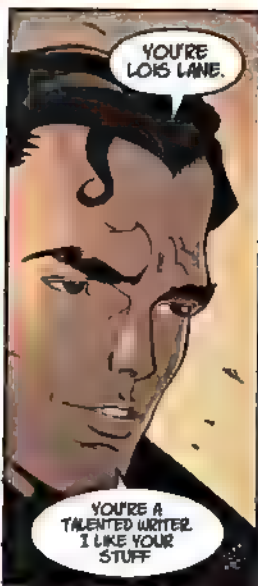
**DID YOU
SEE THAT?
SAVED THE
CONSTITUTION!
WHERE'D HE
GO?**

**YOU SAVED
MY LIFE. YOU
SAVED...**



**I SHOULD THANK YOU
FOR THAT BEFORE I
INTERROGATE YOU,
SHOULDN'T I?
SORRY...**

**WHY ARE
YOU STARING
LIKE THAT?**



**YOU'RE
LOIS LANE.**

**YOU'RE A
TALENTED WRITER.
I LIKE YOUR
STUFF**

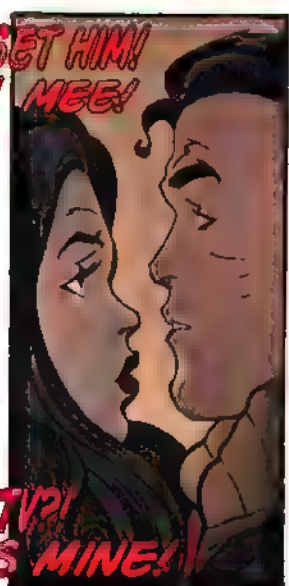


**THERE HE IS! GET HIM!
WHO ARE YOU?
TALK TO ME!**

**AN
EXCLUSIVE!
ATRACLES!**

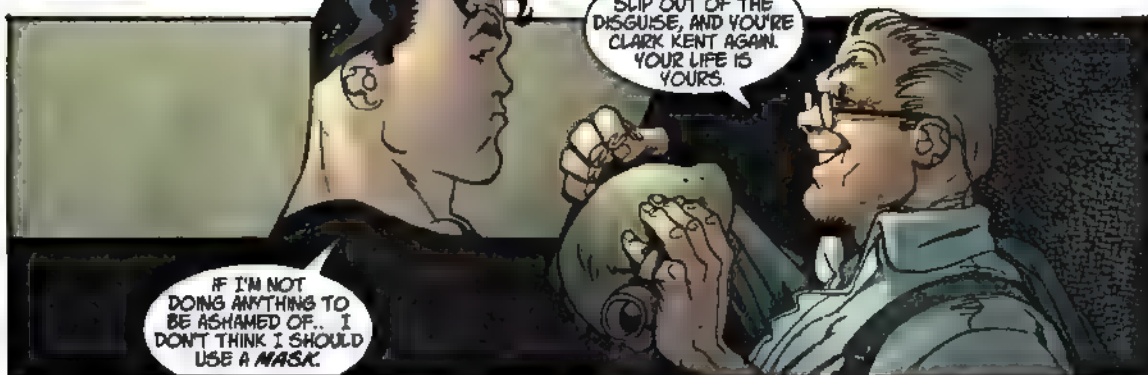
**OOF!
HEY, WATCH
IT!**

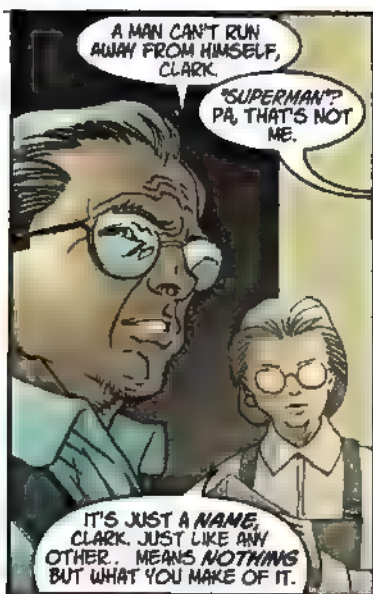
**WANNA BE ON TV?
HE'S MINE!**



MEE!

HE'S MINE!





I KNOW YOU'RE TERRIFIED

THE WORLD IS NOT A KIND PLACE, CLARK.
FATE PLAYS GAMES WITH US ALL. LIFE
RARELY GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN... AND
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO DAMN INCREDIBLE.

I WANTED A LIFE WITH YOU, WHERE THE TWO
OF US WOULD SPEND FOREVER IN A BUBBLE,
AWAY FROM THE WORLD. SAFE. NORMAL. MORE
OF THE SAME IN A SMALL TOWN. THAT
WAS MY PLAN... DOOMED FROM THE START...

BECAUSE YOU WERE MEANT TO LEAVE ME BEFORE
I'D EVEN LAID EYES ON YOU. THAT'S WHY YOU LEFT
VENICE WITHOUT ME. . AND I'M GLAD YOU DID.

YOU BELONG TO THE WORLD, CLARK.
IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW IT. NO
MATTER HOW SCARY THAT SOUNDS,
HOW MEANE.

THEY NEED YOU...
WE ALL NEED YOU...
AND I KNOW YOU WILL
FIND A WAY TO HELP
AS MANY AS YOU
CAN, BECAUSE
THAT'S WHAT YOU DO.

JUST... ONE FAVOR. WHILE YOU'RE
SOARING THROUGH THE CLOUDS,
HELPING, JUST TRY TO REMEMBER
ME. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
WHAT HEIGHTS YOU ACHIEVE, YOU
WILL ALWAYS BE CLARK KENT, THE
BOY I FELL IN LOVE WITH...

BUT "SUPERMAN"
SUITS YOU AS WELL

LOVE ALWAYS,
LANA

IT'S THE HARDEST THING YOU'LL EVER DO... WATCHING THEM INJECT YOUR BOY WITH POISON TO MAKE HIM WELL.

CHILDRENS ONCOLOGY

YOU DO IT, THOUGH, AND FOR THE CHERRY, YOU LOOK HIM IN THE EYES AND LIE, THIS IS GOING TO MAKE YOU BETTER, CHAMP, I PROMISE.

IT GOES ON LIKE THIS FOR EIGHT MONTHS OR SO, AND THEN FOR FUN, YOU JUST CRACK.

THEY HAVE THE SPEECH ON TAP, 'I KNOW CHEMOTHERAPY IS DRAWING, BUT IT'S THE BEST COURSE, BLAH BLAH BLAH.'

HE'S NOT SPEAKING DOWN TO YOU, BUT THE SOFTNESS IN HIS VOICE IS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT YOU ARE HELPLESS.

YOU'VE BEEN HELPLESS SINCE YOUR SON DEVELOPED CANCER, AND YOU'RE FED UP YELLING LOUDER SEEMS LIKE A SMART THING TO DO...

AND YOU WAKE THE BOY UP WITH WORDS A KID SHOULD NEVER HEAR ABOUT HIS OWN MORTALITY.

FATHER OF THE YEAR. YOU'RE ABOUT TO WHIP UP YOUR NEXT DEVASTATING BON MOT WHEN HE TRIES TO SPEAK.

HIS VOICE IS SO SMALL.

"HIS EYES CAN BARELY STAY OPEN. YOU SEE HIM IN THERE, BEHIND THE HAZE OF THE DRUGS, STRUGGLING..."



"HOW BADLY DID YOU SCARE HIM? CAN YOU TAKE IT BACK? YOU WONDER HOW MUCH HE HATES YOU FOR BEING WEAK..."



"AND THEN HE TELLS YOU."



"DON'T BE AFRAID, DAD... WE'RE GONNA GET ALL THE KRYPTONITE OUT."

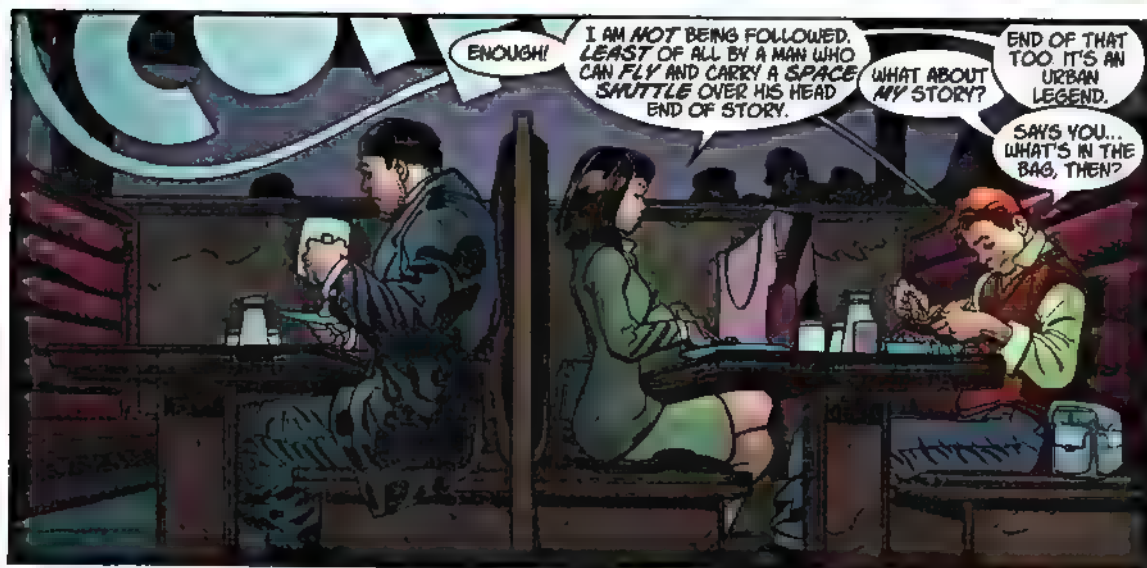
"I'M NOT GOING TO DIE."



"HE SLEEPS, SMILING, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, YOU'RE NOT AFRAID THAT HE WON'T WAKE UP."

"YOUR SON IS NOT GOING TO DIE... BECAUSE HE TOLD YOU SO."







HIS SISTER
GAVE ME THIS. SHE
THOUGHT I COULD
DO SOMETHING
WITH IT

ED LOVED
METROPOLIS. I
GUESS THAT'S WHY OF
ALL THE PLACES HE'D BEEN --
AND THIS WAS A GUY WHOSE
PASSPORTS HAD TO BE
RETIRED EVERY YEAR
FOR WEAR ...



HE SAID
METROPOLIS WAS
A MODEL FOR THE VERY
BEST AND VERY WORST
WE HAD TO
OFFER.

THAT GUY WAS
A BULLDOGS WHEN IT
CAME TO CRACKING A
STORY. THE TRUTH WAS
HIS BLOOD. HE WAS A
ROLE MODEL TO ME IN
A LOT OF WAYS.



YOU'RE
GONNA JUST
LEAVE IT
HERE?

YEAH. THIS
WAS HIS FAVORITE
JOINT. FIGURE HE'D LIKE
BEING AN ANONYMOUS HAT,
LEFT BEHIND AFTER A GOOD
MEAL. LET THE CITY
HANDLE HIM AS IT
WILL



"GIVE THE
WORLD ORDINARY
HEROES, AND THE
EXTRAORDINARY
WILL FOLLOW!"

HE HAD
THAT PUT ON
HIS STONE.



'NIGHT, ED
SLEEP TIGHT, OLD
MAN. I PROMISE
SOMEONE'S CHASING
THE WICKED WHILE
YOU REST

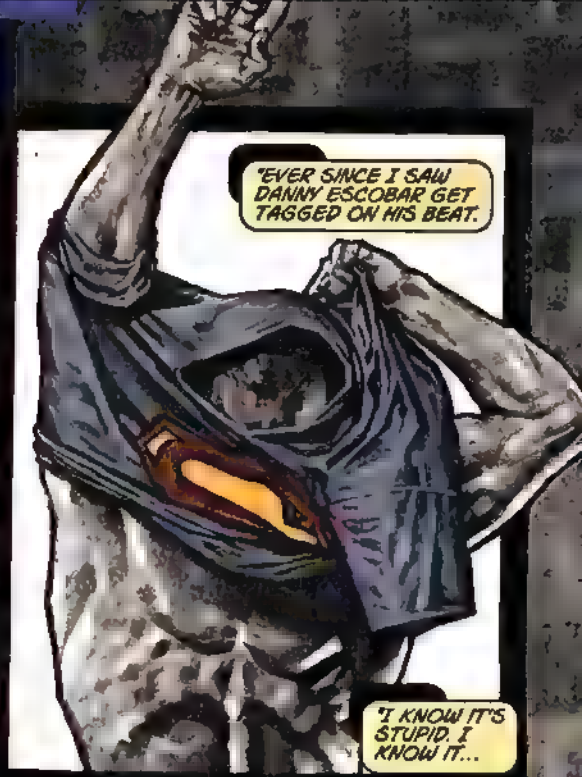


...

TIME
FOR YOU TO
FLY



I'D BEEN DOING IT
FOR SIX YEARS...



EVER SINCE I SAW
DANNY ESCOBAR GET
TAGGED ON HIS BEAT.

I KNOW IT'S
STUPID. I
KNOW IT...



BUT IT'S
MY THING.

THOSE GUYS. WE ALL HAVE
OUR OWN THING. COPS ARE
VERY SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE.
PART OF GETTING THROUGH.



I JUST HAPPEN TO WEAR
MINE ON THE OUTSIDE.



"SO, MY NUMBER CAME
UP SIMPLE AS THAT

"ONE DAY IT'S DANNY ESCOBAR,
ONE DAY IT'S ME. ONE DAY IT'S
YOU. YOU DON'T KNOW.



"IT'S JUST
YOUR DAY



"IT'S NOT LIKE THE MOVIES.
IT HURTS A LOT.



"I DON'T REMEMBER
MUCH ELSE. THERE
WAS A LOT OF
THROWING UP.
I BLACKED OUT.

"THAT I
REMEMBER



"YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT
THAT WHEN YOU'RE DOING
THE THING. YOU CAN'T.
I COULDN'T.

"YOU JUST GO AND DO.
DO SOME GOOD AND TRY
NOT TO BE SCARED.
PRETEND YOU'RE BULLET-
PROOF UNTIL PROVEN
OTHERWISE

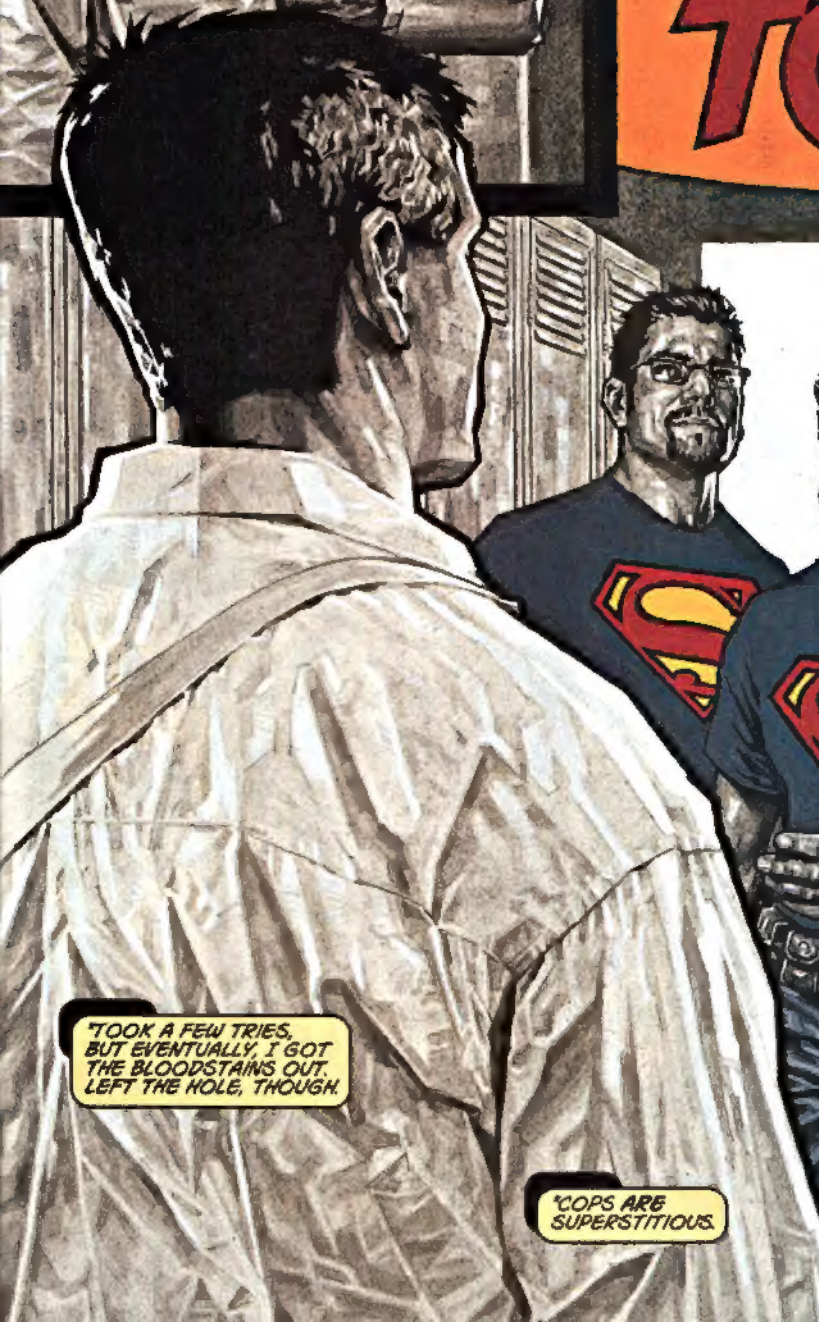


"SHE WAS A
SINGLE MOTHER
WITH THREE KIDS."

"SHE SENT A CARD.
SHE MOVED. SOMETIMES
THEY MOVE, AFTER...
MOVING IS OKAY."

"IT BEATS
DEAD BY
A LONG
SHOT."

WELCOME BACK
TONY!



"TOOK A FEW TRIES,
BUT EVENTUALLY, I GOT
THE BLOODSTAINS OUT.
LEFT THE HOLE, THOUGH."

"COPS ARE
SUPERSTITIOUS."





NO TRUTH, JUSTICE
AND THE
AMERICAN WAY...

...THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE ENGRAVED THESE
INSPIRATIONAL IDEALS INTO
THE MAN OF STEEL FOR THE
LAST SIXTY-FIVE YEARS...

...AND EVERYONE
WHO BELIEVES
A MAN CAN FLY.

UP, UP,
AND
AWAY.



NEVER
THE
END

KELLY
TERRY
02/9